

# THE SPARK GAP

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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AUGUST 2004

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## Saturday the August 21st MARC Meeting

Our guest speaker is Jim Roysden. Jim is an experienced Geo-Cache hunter. Geo-caching is the latest rage in high tech outdoor sports. Using a GPS receiver you get the longitude and latitude of hidden treasures off the internet and then proceed to find them using your hi-tech compass. If you already have a GPS receiver bring it.

For those without a GPS unit, I am told it is possible to play the game without a receiver. Jim will have all the details.

Also on the agenda, elections. Nominations will be taken at the August 21st meeting.

CU there.

73's

Jack W8ISH

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## NOMINATIONS FOR CLUB OFFICERS 2004 – 2005

Nominations will be taken for the election of MARC officers for 2004 –2005 at the August MARC meeting. The offices up for election are, President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. The nominations committee has been hard at work finding people to fill these offices. Nominations will also be taken from the floor during the meeting.

The elections of MARC officers will be during September with the final vote count being taken during the regular scheduled meeting.

Please make sure you are in attendance for these important meetings and take an active part in our amateur radio club.

..... Bob, N9SIU

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## **GREENWOOD HS MARCHING BAND INVITATIONAL SEPTEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>**

You can tell that fall is in the air in Indiana when the High School Football season gets underway and with that come the High School marching bands. With the marching bands there is marching band competitions through out the state and the mid-west. Greenwood High School is hosting one of the Indiana State Music Association (ISMA) events starting the afternoon of September 25 and concluding in the late evening. Once again our club has been asked to help with the public safety and parking of the many vehicles that come to this event.

There has been as many as twenty-five marching bands participate at the Greenwood High School. With that many bands come the many fans, parents and relatives to see each band perform on the football field. Some of the larger bands travel with 12 or more busses, trucks and semi-trucks. Along with all the band traffic and their vehicles there are also many parents and fans of marching bands. There has been as many as 4,000 people at this event through the day and evening. This is where amateur radio and our experience in providing help with parking as well as safety to the public.

As in years past there will be a "hospitality room" with food and drinks when you take a break. I will have a golf cart to transport you to the area if you would like.

This event takes at least 15 to 20 amateurs to make it work correctly. Sometimes we may be working at different locations on or near the high school. The bands and the fans come sometimes in large groups of cars, trucks etc. No one has to stay for the entire event unless they want to.

The first bands (the smaller in band size) arrive about 2:00 PM and the larger bands start arriving about 5:00pm to 6:00PM. The invitational will be over about 10:00PM so a few amateurs will be needed to help get the bands out safely.

So charge up that battery pack for your favorite HT, bring your safety vest and your flashlight with a wand attached and help out.

One thing I forgot to mention, it is really a lot of fun and good exposure for our club and amateur radio.

You can contact me by e-mail: [n9siu@yahoo.com](mailto:n9siu@yahoo.com) or by phone: 317-885-7409 if you want to help or have any questions.

..... Bob, N9SIU

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## Indiana Section News for July 2004

Condolances to the family and friends of these amateurs who became a Silent Key during July: Thomas Bowen KA9ERC, Donna, TX (formerly of Kokomo), July 4; George Scheuer WB9SCC, South Bend, July 6. They will be missed.

The date for this year's Amateur Radio Awareness Day previously was announced as Saturday September 11. The League has changed it to Saturday September 18. This year there was no particular reason to pick the second rather than the third Saturday, and the second Saturday corresponds with September 11 - a day that will be commemorated for an overreaching reason. While amateur radio played a part in our nation's response to the September 11 attacks, concern has been expressed that by designating September 11 as Amateur Radio Awareness Day, may be perceived as trying to ride the coattails of a national tragedy. At the very least, we may be perceived as insensitive. While the League regrets and apologizes for any confusion that may result, the best course of action at this time is to designate September 18 as Amateur Radio Awareness Day. Please modify any materials or plans accordingly that you have.

The FCC has formalized its policy for issuing an emergency communications declaration (ECD) on Amateur Radio Service frequencies. The policy, which became effective August 2, states that ECDs will be issued for VHF or UHF repeaters - if the licensee consents - or on simplex channels in the 60-meter band. The FCC will not entertain requests to specifically sequester frequencies in other HF bands for emergency traffic only. Past emergency communications declarations - typically issued during

weather-related emergencies - have put frequencies on 75 and 40 meters off limits to general use in an affected region. The practice has drawn complaints from members of the amateur community - especially from those well outside the affected region - and from emergency nets, which still experienced QRM.

The FCC said frequencies in other Amateur Service bands - where emergency nets already have been established - may be used during emergencies under the provisions of para 97.101(c). That rules section stipulates that Amateur Service control operators

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give priority to stations providing emergency communications "at all times and on all frequencies."

Jerry Kutche N9LYA has been working hard in the Central and Southern parts of Indiana to extend the Packet Radio infrastructure. The following stations are now operating on packet: N9POA, Rockville; N9LYA, Mitchell; N9NDS, Cloverdale;. WB9FIU, Westport; N9TA, Nashville; and W9OTR, Bedford. For more information on frequencies or how to start your own Packet BBS, please visit: <http://www.w9otr.org>

The July session of the ARES/Emergency net was very short due to extremely poor propagation conditions. For those of you who follow the sunspot activity and its effect on our ionosphere, July has been a very up and down month for propagation on the HF frequencies. The announced CUSEC exercise on July 25 didn't happen due to extremely poor conditions.

JUST A REMINDER: The 2-meter FM frequencies that we use are extremely popular and universally used throughout Indiana and all of the U.S. They are THE most publically accessible amateur frequencies that we use. There are literally 100s of thousands of programmable scanners in use by the public, and public service officials. Since almost all amateurs have some type of 2-meter gear and often use it daily, it is easy to forget that anyone, and I do mean ANYONE, besides another amateur could be listening to your local repeater or simplex frequency. That ANYONE, could be an EMA Director, Chief of Police, City/County Councilman, Red Cross Chapter Chairman, the Mayor of your city, Fire Chief, etc.....and the list is unending. I cannot urge you strongly enough to remember that your best amateur radio presence is the one that you need to use on the local repeater. Those citizens

who are scanner-wise, will often tune in to the SKYWARN nets during severe weather. The info that trained spotter hams provide is accurate and extremely timely. So, any "cat-calls," derogatory remarks, etc. need to be "verboden" at all times. Even at 3:00AM, you don't know who might be awake, and be listening to their scanner. 'Nuff said!

JULY Section Net Activity:

NET	FREQ	DAILY TIMES (UTC)	QNI	QTC	QTR	SESS
ITN	3910 KHZ	1330/2130	1856	98	1192	59
QIN	3656 KHZ	1430/0000	202	93	871	57
ARES	3910 KHZ	4TH SUN/MO @ 1300Z	2	0	5	1

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HOOSIER VHF NETS 18 REPORTING	1517	27	6238	105
HOOSIER DIGITAL NETS (2)	23	0	??	62

JULY ORS Traffic Reports: KJ9J 125, K9PUI 67, KB9TUI 57, K9GBR 52, WA9JWL 42, AB9AA 15, WB9NCE 5, KC9UU 5.

JULY Public Service Honor Roll Reports

CALLSIGN	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
WA9JWL	40	40	10	25	10	0	125

James S. Sellers K9ZBM  
Indiana Section Manager

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ARRL Indiana Section  
Section Manager: James S. Sellers, K9ZBM  
k9zbm@arrl.org

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**SHELBYVILLE TRIATHLON**

MARC members helped to provide safety and traffic control during the Shelbyville Triathlon on August 1<sup>st</sup>. The event was held near Fairland Recreation Park. The Triathlon consists of swimming, running and bicycling. Athletes from around the state participated in this event.

The amateur radio operators were placed at some major intersections on the country roads used for the bicycle course. All seemed to go well for this event and the Blue River Amateur Radio Club thanked us for our help.

The Shelbyville Triathlon is an annual event and MARC members are welcome to help out again next year.

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## **MARC Club Officers**

### **PRESIDENT**

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Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets at 0800 EST the third Saturday of each month at the Johnson County Law Enforcement Center in the Emergency Operations Center. All hams are encouraged to attend this meeting and VE testing is held January through November after the meeting has ended.

MARC operates the 146.835 MHz (151.4 PL) repeater and all hams are welcome to use it.

For more information please visit our club web page at: <http://www.midstatehams.org>

